

CALIFORNIA RIVER PARKWAYS GRANT PROGRAM – PROPOSITION 50

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Last Updated: 10/4/05

Q: How much is available in the first round?

A: \$40.5 million is currently available. (\$10 million appropriated in FY 04/05 and another \$30.5 in FY 05/06.)

Q: What are the minimum and maximum amounts that will be awarded per individual grants?

A: No minimum or maximum amounts have been established in this first round. However, based on the experiences of this first round, the Resources Agency may reconsider this issue for future rounds.

Q: How many funding rounds will there be?

A: The exact number has not been determined at this time. However, we estimate that there will be two to three rounds.

Q: According to the guidelines, a project involving the acquisition of property purchased in excess of the Fair Market Value (FMV) would be considered an ineligible project. Could it be considered an eligible project, if the grantee found the means to cover the amount in excess of FMV?

A: No. The State is only interested in participating in acquisitions that can be purchased at the approved Fair Market Value.

Q: Several organizations will be involved in the proposed project. At this point, however, we are only in the preliminary talking stages with no official agreement among the parties regarding specific responsibilities. How will this affect our score, particularly in the area of ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

A: Short of a formal agreement, documents demonstrating due diligence are needed for a complete application. Such documents will not only support the project, but will also clearly state that, should a grant be awarded, the party(ies) are prepared to enter into a formal agreement(s) to fulfill their portion(s) of the project. The letter(s) should state what those responsibilities would be, i.e., to operate and maintain the property commensurate with the land tenure requirements of the grant program.

Q: When are the grant applications due and awards announced?

A: Applications are due no later than Tuesday, October 18, 2005 by 4:00 p.m. Awards will likely be announced March or April 2006.



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Q: The grant guidelines require prevailing wages be paid for any public work projects financed with Prop 50 grant funds. How is this requirement applicable to a city (the grantee) that plans on using their Public Works Department to complete the project?

A: Labor Code Section 1771 specifically exempts the prevailing wage requirement for work carried out by a public agency with its own forces. For more information on "prevailing wage", refer to <http://workitout.ca.gov/faq.asp?id=143>

Q: In evaluating grant applications, will the size of the population to be served influence the evaluation?

A: No, but the evaluation will consider how well the population will be served.

Q: Is it true the first \$10 million to be awarded must be expended within the next two fiscal years, while the second \$30.5 million to be awarded must be expended within the next three fiscal years?

A: No. For the first \$10 million, grant agreements must be executed and funds encumbered by June 30, 2007, whereas the funds must be spent by June 30, 2009. For the \$30.5 million in the 2005-06 budget, grant agreements would need to be executed and funds encumbered by June 30, 2008, whereas the funds must be spent by June 30, 2010.

Q: Are costs directly related to the grant project, but incurred prior to the project award date eligible for reimbursement?

A: No, costs must be incurred during the project performance period to be eligible.

Q: What is the Project Performance Period?

A: It refers to the beginning and end dates of the grant agreement. Eligible costs during this period can be funded from the grant.

Q: Can we use an overhead rate for personnel and/or employee services?

A: No, costs must be directly tracked to a specific purpose, project and employee with supporting timesheets. Rates can only be used when determining eligible staff benefits.

Q: Are matching funds required and how does it impact scoring?

A: No, matching funds are not required for this program. However, it should be noted that up to five points can be earned by securing other sources of funds. This does not apply, however, to disadvantaged communities, who will be awarded five points automatically in this category.

Q: Are Federal Agencies eligible to apply for a grant?

A: No



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Q: Is it the applicant who has to have land tenure?

A: Yes. There are various ways to meet the land tenure requirement, (e.g., fee ownership, long-term agreements and easements). Land tenure must include the right to develop, operate and maintain all lands included in the project for the period required in the guidelines.

Q: Does CEQA need to be completed prior to submitting a grant application and can you explain how CEQA factors into project readiness?

A: No. However, Agency does require an initial study and explanation as to how CEQA will be completed (e.g., full EIR, Negative Declaration, etc.). Moreover, the grantee has one year after the grant is awarded to complete their CEQA. The Grant Guidelines contain a comprehensive list of documents required to demonstrate compliance. (Note: Construction costs will not be reimbursed until CEQA is completed.)

Q: Are permits required to be completed prior to submitting an application? Will priority or preference points be given to projects where permits have already been obtained?

A: No. Agency does not require permits to be in place when submitting an application. However, when evaluating factors such as due diligence and project readiness, the status of the permits may be considered.

Q: According to the Guidelines, projects with “hardscape” will receive additional Technical Committee review. What will this review entail?

A: Applications that include hardscape or “engineered elements” will be subject to additional review to determine compatibility with the natural physical processes of the environment. Examples of well engineered elements include: walkways in a dune area designed to work with or allow the uninterrupted and natural movement of sand; pedestrian/bikeway bridges across streams with support piers designed to accommodate the natural movement of sediment; or parking areas designed with permeable surface and/or storm water drainage systems to protect water quality by minimizing hydrocarbon-laden runoff into surface water.

Similarly, applicants are encouraged to use “environmentally friendly materials” (EFM) whenever possible in the construction of trails and other recreational amenities. Such materials refer to products that inflict little or no harm on the environment either through their production or subsequent use. Some examples of EFM applications include: benches using a materials comprised of recycled post-consumer waste; trail surface constructed of durable natural materials such as decomposed granite (versus asphalt); or pier posts made of inert material such as recycled plastic (versus creosote-treated wood) that if lost during a flood event would pose little harm to the aquatic community.



FAQs Continuation (Page 4)

Q: In the River Parkway guidelines, the definition of a River Parkway states that it needs to be, "adjacent to a river or stream". Would parkways adjacent to other water bodies (e.g., lakes, wetlands, flood control channels, aqueducts, etc.) be eligible for this program?

A: A project must be adjacent to a river or stream/creek. Applicants are required to specify the location of the river or stream/creek as part of a complete application (see item #7, pg. 13 of the River Parkway guidelines).

Q: Regarding the five statutory conditions, where an applicant must meet at least two to be eligible, if one of the conditions has been previously met and funded via a separate project, can that project be expanded to meet a second condition, thereby making the expanded project eligible for a River Parkway grant?

A: No, all projects eligible for funding from this program must, in themselves, meet two of the five statutory conditions (as well as the other requirements of the program).

Q: My organization has several eligible projects that we feel are competitive. Should we submit one application for all projects, or individual applications for each?

A: The latter, as each project (as defined on page 44 of the guidelines) will be evaluated and scored by the committee on an individual basis.

Q: Will I be penalized for submitting more than one application?

A: No, each project will be evaluated and scored by the committee based on its own merit.

Q: If we meet two conditions, can we get additional points if other conditions are met as well?

A: No, there are 30 maximum points in this category. If, by meeting other conditions, it enhances/improves the quality of the project, scoring may be impacted in other areas.

Q: How will you determine whether or not you are going to schedule a site visit?

A: We anticipate visiting all projects that make it to the semi-finalist list. The cut-off to make the list depends on scoring, number of applications received, requested funding amounts, etc.

Q: Will the application go forward for review without a letter from the Willing Seller? Or with a letter indicating the seller is willing to begin negotiations (should funds become available)?

A: No. Applications must include a willing seller letter that clearly indicates that should grant funds be awarded, the seller is willing to enter into an agreement for the sale of the real property, and for a purchase price not to exceed Fair Market Value.

